

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

April 28, 1999      LB 882

SENATOR HILGERT: That's correct.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Senator Hilgert. Members of the Legislature, you all have an incompetent Attorney General. You have an Attorney General who has behaved in a way that I think is unethical in a number of instances. The most recent example is some clap-trap that was put on my desk, and Senator Beutler asked me had I read it, and I thought he was joking when I read it. This thing about the Attorney General taking his religious views and imposing on the State Department of Education on issues that he had no business sticking his unethical, ignorant nose into. And the state department rolled over and accepted it. He is accustomed to disregarding and showing contempt for other individuals and agencies of government, including the Legislature. We don't have to approve of these claims. There should have been a presentation by the representative of the Attorney General's Office, if he was capable, which would have made clear the precise legal posture of these cases. By that I mean state in detail what had been done, up to this point, on each one of these cases. Why the Attorney General said, throw in the towel now? Is it because handling these cases are beyond the expertise of your Attorney General and his minions? You can't answer those questions. I cannot answer them. Senator Hilgert, who was at the hearing, cannot answer them. It would be for the Attorney General and his minions to provide those answers. I am not going to be hastened or hurried into approving of these claims that Senator Vrtiska, with the complicity of the Speaker, is presenting to us this afternoon. I'm going to keep as open a mind as I ought to keep on a matter such as this, and if I can be persuaded that the acceptance of these claims is the appropriate thing to do, then I'll vote yes.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But at this point, I'm not persuaded of anything. And what Senator Kristensen and what Senator Vrtiska said were not even designed to persuade. They merely made assertions of what, in their opinion, we ought to do. But I think we need something in the way of a factual basis to justify our supporting these claims, and I haven't heard that. So I hope that the two senators who cosponsored what's before us now will enlighten us directly.